



The Roadmap to 2030

In the future, water supplies and the environment must both be considered together.

To ensure sustainability, California must also **manage water in ways that protect and restore the environment.** Water is a vital natural resource for people and the environment, so water management activities must occur in the context of resource management and environmental protection. Water development in California has a rich history of conflict, at times pitting water supply projects against ecosystem protection. In the future, water supplies and the environment must both be considered together.

Water managers must support environmental stewardship as part of their management responsibilities. As they develop and deliver water supplies, they can incorporate environmental stewardship in many ways:

- Integrate ecosystem restoration with water planning and land use planning
- Restore and maintain the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems

- Minimize the alteration of ecosystems by water management actions
- Improve watershed management
- Protect public trust resources
- Integrate flood management with water supply management

Water management activities will often have unavoidable environmental consequences: when water is removed from the natural environment for other beneficial uses, the environment is affected. In carrying out water management activities, Californians must acknowledge these environmental costs and ensure that restoration actions are carried out to maintain and improve environmental health.

Initiatives to Ensure Reliability

Two key initiatives in the California Water Plan outline the ways we will achieve the foundational actions. The initiatives will ensure that Californians have enough clean and affordable water through the year 2030.



The first initiative is to continue recent progress in **implementing integrated regional water management**. California Water Plan Update 2005 identifies 25 strategies to help meet regional water management objectives in the context of broader resource management. These strategies include water use efficiency, recycling, desalination, and storage; as well as improving water quality, management of floodplains, runoff and watersheds, and ecosystem restoration. By following these management strategies, communities can plan, invest, and diversify their water portfolios. These strategies will help regions become more self-sufficient with local supplies and will minimize conflicts with other resource management efforts.

Integrated regional water management is an approach that will help communities and regions incorporate sustainability actions into their water management efforts. Actions to use water efficiently, protect water quality, and restore the

environment will be most successful when they are part of an integrated program.

This initiative includes the following elements:

- Foster regional partnerships
- Develop integrated regional water management plans
- Diversify regional water portfolios

The second initiative is to **maintain and improve statewide water management systems**, including physical facilities and statewide water management programs.

Californians have developed a vast network of physical facilities that provide for the delivery of base water supplies throughout the state, transfer of water between users, treatment and distribution of water within service areas, protection from floods, and the sharing of supplies during emergencies. These facilities make up the backbone of water management in California, and

must be maintained so that water is available when and where it is needed.

This initiative also includes statewide water management programs such as water quality standards, monitoring programs, and statewide water efficiency programs. These programs help meet major State government responsibilities for statewide water planning and ecosystem restoration. The State must continue to lead collaborative efforts to find solutions to water issues having broad public benefits such as protecting and restoring the Delta, Salton Sea, Mono Lake, Klamath basin, and Lake Tahoe.

This initiative includes the following actions by State, federal and local agencies and governments:

- Maintain aging facilities
- Implement the CALFED Program
- Improve flood management
- Sustain the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta